

## Message Text

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TO USINFO WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4730

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12104

ATTN IOR/M, IBS, IPS, INE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CURRENT REACTION

1. SUMMARY. OCT. 11-13 PRESS CONTINUES REFLECT OPTIMISM ON FIGHTING AND EXPECTATION WAR WILL BE PROTRACTED IN SPITE OF DESTRUCTION. US POSITION AS PRESENTED IN SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE RECEIVES EXTENSIVE BUT UNBALANCED TREATMENT, AND SUBTLETIES OF POSITION ON REQUISITES OF CEASE-FIRE GO UNNOTICED. SENSATIONS OF MOMENT ARE MILITARY: MULTIPLE ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING AND/OR SHIPMENT OF ARMS. WHILE NO SINGLE ITEM HAS YET DEVELOPED INTO MAJOR CAMPAIGN, SHEER VOLUME OF ALLEGATIONS KEEPS PAPERS BUSY.

2. ON INTERNATIONAL SETTING OF WAR, INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR COMMENTS (OCT. 12): "SUPERPOWERS' READINESS TO GIVE BELLIGERENTS ARMS WILL INTERNATIONALIZE FIGHTING AND MEAN COLLAPSE OF DETENTE POLICY. NEAR FUTURE MUST BE SEEN IN TERMS OF ALL-OUT ESCALATION OF FIGHTING. IT CAN BE ASSUMED ARABS WILL STAY IN FIGHT NO MATTER HOW DESTRUCTIVE IT BECOMES TO CIVILIANS." IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL (OCT. 13) SAME PAPER COMMENTS: "WAR WILL CLEARLY SHOW DEGREE AMERICA CAN PURSUE TRULY BALANCED POLICY. COLLAPSE OF ITS PROMISES WILL HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE ON

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FUTURE OF ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS, WHICH HAD BEGUN

IMPROVING. WAR CAN BE STOPPED ONLY BY MAJOR SOVIET-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. IS AMERICA ABLE TO DO THIS, OR WILL ISRAEL SUCCEED IN 'IMPRISONING' AMERICAN AND FORCING POLARIZATION?" INDEPENDENT FRENCH AS SAFA USED WP ARTICLE ON SAM-6'S TO COMMENT: "WAR IS FATED TO BE LONG ONE BECAUSE, AS IN VIETNAM, AMERICA FINDS IT AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST IT SEAPONS AND ELECTRONICS."

3. SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON MIDEAST EXTENSIVELY COVERED. MOST FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES EMPHASIZE MENTION OF NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION DANGER. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR: KISSINGER: DANGER OF CONFRONTATION EXISTS, BUT UP TO NOW RUSSIANS ARE BEHAVING MODERATELY." PRO-CAIRO AL ANWAR: "KISSINGER SPEAKS OF DANGER OF NUCLEAR POWER CONFRONTATION." PRO-CUMMUNIST PAPERS SLANT TREATMENT DIFFERENTLY. AN NIDA: "KISSINGER CONFIRMS AMERICA'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL." ASH SHAAB: AMERICA ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN AGGRESSION AND THREATENS NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION." INDEPENDENT FRENCH L'ORIENT-LE JOUR HEADLINES: "TWO SUPERPOWRS WILL HELP PROTEGES WITHIN LIMITS DETENTE IMPOSES, KISSINGER IMPLIES."

3. ALLEGATIONS OF US PARTICIPATION IN FIGHTING FOCUS ON MADRID STORY ABOUT US PILOTS GOING TO ISRAEL, WHICH MOST PAPERS CARRY ON FRONT/BACK PAGES. PRO-CAIRO PRO-COMMANDO AL YOUNG BANNERS INFLAMMATORY EXCLUSIVE: "SIXTH FLEET PHANTOM WHICH PARTICIPATED IN BOMBING OF SYRIAN SITES SHOT DOWN." COMPANION PHOTO SHOWS US NAVY AUXILIARY FUEL TANK MARKINGS REMOUNTED ON AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. PAPER COMMENTS MARKINGS "LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT PHANTOM HAD TAKEN OFF FROM ONE OF US CARRIERS."

5. REPORTED PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE US FLEET MOVEMENTS AND ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL ABOUND ON FRONT/BACK PAGES OF ALL PAPERS. WARNINGS OF EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN AND ARAB UN ENVOYS ON SHIPMENTS CARRIED ON INSIDE PAGES, THOUGH INDEPENDENT AL JARIDA BANNERS: "COLLECTIVE ARAB WARNING TO AMERICA."

6. REPORTS OF CALLS FOR ARAB ACTION AGAINST US FOCUS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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FEISAL'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT, WHICH AL ANWAR CALLS "CLEAR THREAT TO TAKE SERIES OF MEASURES IF AMERICA PROVIDES ISRAEL ARMS" AND INDEPENDENT AL BAYRAQ CALLS "WARNENNG TO US OF OIL CUTOFF IF ITS FORCES INTERVENE IN MIDEAST." BUFFUM

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